

Applic. No. 10/650,054

Amdt. dated February 18, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 18, 2004

Specification Amendments

Replace the paragraph between lines 10-23 on page 20 with the following:

-- A separation unit 16 if required separates the section 6 from the sheet metal strip 2. The separation unit 16 is connected to the identification unit 5 via a third signal line 17. The ~~fourth~~ third signal line 17 can be used to interchange data in both directions between the identification unit 5 and the separation unit 16, so that the current operating state of the separation unit 16 can also be used for identification of that section 6 of the sheet metal strip 2 that is currently being processed. The feedback to the identification unit 5 synchronizes the individual production steps in the various units and tools 9, 14, 15, 16, 19, so that the system knows in each production step the unit 9, 14, 15, 16, 19 in which each section Ni is located.--